

Def. Doc. # 1118

STATEMENT OF THE FOREIGN OFFICE.

(August 26, 1937.)

Although Japan has been forced to adopt measures of self-defence in the face of lawless attacks upon her forces by Chinese armies and their wanton disregard of Japanese lives and property and violations of Japan's rights and interests in China, it has always been the desire of the Japanese Government to minimize the scope of the present affair. However, the Chinese armies, by their repeated outrages and provocations, have intensified still further the gravity of the situation.

In these circumstances, with a view to prompting China's reconsideration and to effecting a speedy settlement, the Japanese naval authorities found it necessary to close to traffic of Chinese vessels the Chinese sea coast from $32^{\circ} 4'$ north latitude and $121^{\circ} 44'$ east longitude, to $23^{\circ} 14'$ north latitude and $116^{\circ} 48'$ east longitude, beginning at 6:00 p.m., August 25, 1937.

The above measure is solely one of self-defense against the lawless acts of the Chinese, and applies only to Chinese vessels. It may be added that peaceful commerce carried on by the third Powers will be fully respected, the Japanese Navy having no intention of interfering with it.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI Koro, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of 1 page and entitled "Statement of the Foreign Office, August 26, 1937." is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 8th day of April 1947.

(Signed) K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: (Signed) K. Urabe

三〇 中南支那問題ニ於ケル支那船舶ノ交通遮斷ニ關スル外務省發表
一九三七年（八月廿六日）

帝國ハ我官院ニ對スル支那軍ノ不法攻撃並ニ在支邦人ノ生命財産及我機密ニ對スル支那軍ノ不正ノ侵迫ニ對シ自衛手段ヲ執ルヲ餘儀ナクセラレタカ
當初ヨリ局面ヲ最小範圍ニ限定センコトヲ念トシタ、然ルニ支那軍果次ノ
暴行ナル挑斷的行爲ニ依リ事態ハ益々重大ヲ加フルニ至ツタ

右事情ニ對應シ支那ノ反省ヲ促シ速ニ事態ヲ安寧セシメントスル考慮ニ基
キ瀋陽海軍ハ已ムヲ繼々昭和十二年八月二十五日午後六時以降北緯二十三
度十四分直經百十六度四十八分ニ至ル支那沿岸ニ對シ支那船舶ノ交通ヲ遮
斷スルノ措置ヲ執ルニ決シタ然レトモ右ノ措置ハ前記ノ如ク真ラ支那側ノ
不法行爲ニ對スル自衛的措置ニ外ナラスシテ帝國海軍ハ第三國ノ平和的交
商ヲ尊重シ之ニ干渉ヲ加フルノ企圖ヲ有セサルモノアルコトヲ附言スル

文書ノ出所前ニ成立ニ付スル證明書

自分、林 馨ハ外務省文書課長ノ職ニ居ル者ナル處、茲ニ添付セラレタル
日本語ニ依ツテ筆カレ壹頁ヨリ成ル中南支那岸ニ於ケル支那船舶交通遮断
ニ關スルト、外務省發表一九三七。八。二六號スル公報ハ日本政府（外務省）
ノ保管ニ係ル公文書ノ正確ニシテ眞實ナル實シタルコトヲ證明ス

昭和二十二年四月八日

於東京

林

馨

右署名捺印ハ自分ノ面前ニ於テ爲サレタリ

同日 於 同 所

立會人

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